

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

July 27, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

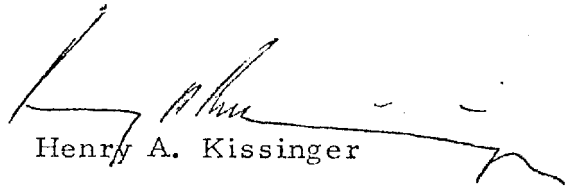
SUBJECT: The Symington Ceiling and Military Activity in Laos

Following up the Washington Special Action Group discussion on 20 July 1972, the President has reaffirmed his strong preference that there should be no legislative ceiling on our assistance to Laos. If a ceiling is inescapable, the President desires that it be at a level which will not impose arbitrary financial limitations upon military activities.

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In their dealings regarding Laos with congressional counterparts, the agencies should be guided by the foregoing. The White House intends to make representations to the Chairmen of the appropriate congressional committees in support of having the ceiling removed or raised to a fully adequate level.

The President also desires as a matter of urgency that all appropriate military measures, including provision of adequate tacair and B-52 support, should be taken to regain the Plaine de Jarres during the rainy season. These efforts should be designed to take advantage of the NVA forces reduction in North Laos and to reduce the North Vietnamese flexibility to transfer units from Laos to the critical battle areas in South Vietnam.

  
Henry A. Kissinger

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